

REMARKS

The invention relates to methods for screening analytes. Claims 1, 5, 10, 17-18, 24, 26, 29-30, and 32-35 are pending in the application and were examined. Claims 1, 5, 10, 17-18, 24, 26, 29-30, and 32-35 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 6,284,113 (“Bjornson”). Claims 1, 5, 10, 17-18, 24, 26, 29-30, and 32-35 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly obvious over U.S. Pat. No. 5,601,992 (“Lerner”) in connection with Bjornson. Claim 1 is amended herein, without the addition of new matter. Claim 17 is canceled herein, without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claims 1, 5, 10, 17-18, 24, 26, 29-30, and 32-35 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as allegedly anticipated by Bjornson. According to the examiner, Bjornson provides all of the limitations of the claimed invention. Applicants disagree. However, to advance prosecution, applicants have amended claim 1. Support for the amendment can be found, throughout the specification, for example, at page 8, lines 1-3. Applicants submit that Bjornson does not teach or suggest all of the limitations of the invention as now claimed.

Claims 1, 5, 10, 17-18, 24, 26, 29-30, and 32-35 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly anticipated Lerner and Bjornson. According to the examiner, Lerner does not teach disposing analytes in individually identifiable containers and transferring the analytes to a solid support as claimed, but Bjornson is alleged to supply the missing steps. Applicants traverse the rejection because all of the limitations of the claimed invention are not taught or suggested by the cited art.

As discussed above, Bjornson does not teach or suggest all of the limitations of the claimed invention. Lerner does not remedy the deficiencies of Bjornson. Thus, the cited references, alone or in combination do not teach or suggest all of the limitations of the claimed invention, and accordingly, a *prima facie* case for obviousness has not been established.

DOCKET NO.: TIBO-0019
Application No.: 09/530,907
Office Action Dated: July 20, 2006

PATENT
REPLY FILED UNDER EXPEDITED
PROCEDURE PURSUANT TO
37 CFR § 1.116

In view of the amendments submitted herewith and the foregoing remarks, applicants respectfully assert that all claims presently pending are in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and a Notice of Allowance are earnestly requested.

Date: December 20, 2006

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